

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly for winding a counterbalancing mechanism of a door, the ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly comprising:

at least one plate operatively mounted onto a fixed structure, the at least one plate including an orifice through which extends a shaft of the counterbalancing mechanism of the door and about which said shaft is rotatable along opposite first and second directions of rotation;

blocking means mounted onto the at least one plate and being operatively cooperable with the shaft for blocking the same from rotating along the first direction of rotation; and

an actuator operatively connected to the blocking means for selectively operating the blocking means, the actuator being operable between a locked configuration where the blocking means cooperate with the shaft so as to allow it to rotate along the second direction only, and an unlocked configuration where the blocking means are removed from the shaft so as to allow it to rotate freely along both the first and second directions of rotation.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly according to claim 1, wherein the ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly comprises biasing means cooperating with the actuator for urging the same into the locked configuration.

3. (Currently Amended) A ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly according to claim 2, wherein the blocking means comprises:

at least one ridge provided along a peripheral edge of the orifice of the at least one plate; and

at least one roller pivotally mounted about a corresponding pin connected to the actuator, and being positioned within the at least one ridge and adjacent to the shaft, the at least one ridge and the at least one roller being shaped and sized so that when the actuator is operated in the locked configuration, the at least one roller is operatively pressed against the shaft and the at

least one ridge for preventing the shaft from rotating in the first direction, and when the actuator is operated in the unlocked configuration, the at least one roller is operatively urged away from the shaft and the at least one ridge for allowing the shaft to rotate along both the first and second directions of rotation.

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly for winding a counterbalancing mechanism of a door, the ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly comprising:

at least one plate operatively mounted onto a fixed structure, the at least one plate including an orifice through which extends a shaft of the counterbalancing mechanism of the door and about which said shaft is rotatable along opposite first and second directions of rotation;

at least one ridge provided about a peripheral edge of the orifice;

an actuator operatively connected to the at least one plate, the actuator being operable between a locked configuration and an unlocked configuration; and

at least one pawling element mounted onto the actuator, and being positioned within the at least one ridge, adjacent to the shaft;

wherein the at least one ridge and the at least one pawling element are shaped and sized so that when the actuator is operated in the locked configuration, the at least one pawling element is operatively pressed against the shaft and the at least one ridge for preventing the shaft from rotating along the first direction of rotation, and when the actuator is operated in the unlocked configuration, the at least one pawling element is operatively urged away from the shaft and the at least one ridge for allowing said shaft to rotate along both the first and second directions of rotation.

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly according to claim 4, wherein the ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly comprises biasing means for biasing the actuator into the locked configuration.

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly according to claim 5, wherein the actuator comprises a ring mounted about the shaft, positioned adjacent to the at least one plate,

the ring being provided with a handle for enabling a user to selectively urge the actuator into the unlocked configuration.

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly according to claim 6, wherein each pawling element comprises a roller pivotally mounted about a corresponding pin connected to the ring.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly according to claim 7, wherein the ring comprises projections for abutting against the at least one plate for positioning the ring at a given distance from the at least one plate.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly according to claim 8, wherein the ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly comprises first and second plates extending substantially parallel to one another, and wherein the ring is positioned between said plates and comprises projections for abutting against the plates for positioning the ring at a given distance from each of said plates.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly according to claim 9, wherein the plates are made integral to one another.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly according to claim 8, wherein the biasing means comprises a loaded spring operatively connected between the ring and the at least one support plate.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly according to claim 10, wherein the biasing means comprises a loaded spring operatively connected between the handle of the ring and the first plate.

13. (Currently Amended) A ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly according to claim 10, wherein the biasing means ~~consist of a~~ comprise gravitational effect acting onto the actuator and components operatively connected thereto.

14. (Currently Amended) A ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly according to claim 11, wherein each roller is provided with a knurled surface.
15. (Currently Amended) A door assembly having a counterbalancing mechanism provided with a ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly according to claim 1.
16. (Currently Amended) A door assembly having a counterbalancing mechanism provided with a ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly according to claim 3.
17. (Currently Amended) A door assembly having a counterbalancing mechanism provided with a ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly according to claim 4.
18. (Currently Amended) A door assembly having a counterbalancing mechanism provided with a ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly according to claim 8.
19. (Currently Amended) A door assembly having a counterbalancing mechanism provided with a ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly according to claim 9.
20. (Currently Amended) A kit for assembling a ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly for winding a counterbalancing mechanism of a door, the kit comprising:
- at least one plate operatively mountable onto a fixed structure, the at least one plate including an orifice for receiving a shaft of the counterbalancing mechanism of the door and about which said shaft is rotatable along opposite first and second directions of rotation;
 - at least one ridge provided about a peripheral edge of the orifice;
 - an actuator operatively connectable to the at least one plate, the actuator being operable between a locked configuration and an unlocked configuration; and
 - at least one pawling element mountable onto the actuator, and being positionable within the at least one ridge, adjacent to the shaft;
- wherein the at least one ridge and the at least one pawling element are shaped and sized so that, once the ~~ratchet-like~~ ratchet assembly is assembled, when the actuator is operated in the locked configuration, the at least one pawling element is operatively pressed against the shaft

and the at least one ridge for preventing the shaft from rotating along the first direction of rotation, and when the actuator is operated in the unlocked configuration, the at least one pawling element is operatively urged away from the shaft and the at least one ridge for allowing said shaft to rotate along both the first and second directions of rotation.